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EXTRAORDINARY

PART I—Section 1

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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORT TRADE CONTROL

New Delhi, the 22nd July, 1954

SUBJECT.—*Export Promotion Scheme for Tobacco.*

No. 69-ITC(P.N.)/54.—Representations have been made to the Government of India to the effect that while considerable scope for the export of Indian tobacco to certain countries exist, actual exports to these countries have been small because of foreign exchange and payments difficulties. The trading organisations in these countries, it is understood, are interested in the import of substantial quantities of Indian tobacco but desire to have facilities to make payment for these imports by way of increased exports to India.

2. Having regard to the above considerations, it has been decided to extend the scope of the Export Promotion Scheme and to consider the grant of *ad hoc* import licences to facilitate the export of Indian tobacco.

3. Applications for these special import licences should be made to the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi. These applications will be considered on an *ad hoc* basis subject to the following conditions:—

- (a) The item sought to be imported has a liberal import policy, i.e., the soft currency quota for the item has been fixed at or above 75 per cent.
- (b) The country from which the import is sought to be made is experiencing payment difficulties in developing the import of tobacco from India.
- (c) The intending importer produces documentary evidence of a firm offer by a buyer in the country concerned for the purchase of low grades (Agmark grades LMG, B, DB, DG, PL, FS, or FS2) of flue cured tobacco pertaining to the pre-1954 harvest.

4. The applicants are advised to furnish full information relating to the conditions mentioned in the preceding paragraph. In case these conditions are satisfied, provisional import licences for reasonable value may be issued in the first instance. The provisional licences will not be valid for clearance of goods through Customs until these have been confirmed.

5. The provisional import licences will be confirmed as soon as the intending importer is able to satisfy the licensing authority that tobacco of the requisite quality and crop and of equivalent value has been exported to the country concerned.

6. In case any importer is unable to effect exports in advance and desires to have facilities to effect imports first, he should satisfy the licensing authority that he has entered into a firm contract for the export of specified grades of tobacco to the country from which the import is sought to be made. The import licence will be confirmed provided a letter of credit is opened to cover the export of tobacco and the importer will be allowed to clear the goods through Customs against the import licence so confirmed. The importer will however be required to execute a bond with the Import Control Authorities at the ports to the effect that exports of tobacco of the required value will be made within 4 months of the date of the issue of the import licences. The bond will be required to be guaranteed by a bank for 20 per cent. of the value for which the import licence is issued, which amount is liable to be forfeited to Government if the licence-holder fails to produce evidence of actual exports of tobacco within the prescribed time before the Export Trade Controller concerned.

7. The bond will be cancelled on producing the necessary evidence of having effected shipments of tobacco, including a certificate from the Chief Tobacco Officer of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Guntur, certifying that the consignment of tobacco exported consisted of low grades of tobacco from the pre-1954 harvest.

K. B. LALL, Jt. Secy.